

NOAA RESEARCH 2001

Boulder Rent



NOAA Request

NOAA requests an adjustment-to-base increase of \$1,500,000 for the full-year funding required for full operational activity in the new David Skaggs Research Center. This increase is needed to avoid an estimated shortfall of at least this amount in funds available for rent and related costs. This request is included in the Facilities Operations line item of OAR's budget. The new GSA building that consolidates all of the NOAA functions in Boulder, CO, became fully occupied in May of 1999. This 372,000 square-foot facility, with state-of-the-art laboratories and accompanying communications network, houses 11 separate tenant organizations from three NOAA line offices (OAR, NESDIS, and NWS) as well as the Office of Finance and Administration.

Background

Boulder, Colorado is home to several government organizations that are part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which is in the Department of Commerce (DOC). These organizations include six of the twelve laboratories that make up NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research Laboratories (OAR), two of the Data Centers of the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS), one of OAR's eleven Joint Institutes, and an Administrative Support Center. The David Skaggs Research Center is the new home for the NOAA-Boulder organizations and is managed by GSA in Boulder. GSA charges for space, above-standard utilities, maintenance, and security.

Proposed Actions

A recurring increase of \$1,500,000 is needed to fund the incremental GSA charges for space, above-standard utilities, maintenance, and security. While negotiations on the final rent amount are still underway between NOAA and GSA, the current best offer to NOAA results in a total cost of over \$9,900,000, which would result in a rent shortfall of at least \$1,500,000 for NOAA even assuming modest success in negotiating with GSA and the full availability of the base funds used in the past for Boulder rent.

Benefits

Funding of this shortfall would directly avoid what otherwise would amount to an overall base program reduction of approximately 5% to the NOAA Boulder organizations. This would particularly impact key programs in climate, weather research and data collection management.